

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

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THE ROGERS ESTATE.

The will of Henry H. Rodgers, the Standard Oil magnate who died recently, has been filed and he leaves wealth amounting to seventy-five million dollars. This wealth does not consist of what is commonly called property, or money, but consists of the legal right to tax the people on things that have been monopolized, and without which the people cannot get along. This wealth is law-made and consists of stocks and bonds on which the working class must pay the interest, or dividends, just as surely as if they had voted the debt on themselves.

Seventy-five million dollars!

Think a bit. We are so in the habit of dealing in millions that we lose sight of their meaning. The total assessed value of Scott county—land, buildings, money merchandise, banks, railroads, everything, is less than six million—or about one-thirteenth the value of the estate of one man who produced nothing but poverty, misery and corrupt government.

According to the vote last fall we have a population of near twenty thousand souls in Scott county. Yet here is one man whose wealth equals that of 250,000 people such as we—approximately equal to the total assessed value of this entire congressional district composed of seventeen counties! And he was by no means the richest man we have to support. Either Rockefeller or Carnegie are ten times as rich. Rockefeller's wealth is estimated as equal to more than two-thirds the total assessed valuation of the entire state. Where one has so much why should we wonder at the many having so little?

Now I want to prove to you that the fault is not with individuals, but with the system, and that so long as the present capitalist system is maintained conditions will grow worse. If you have small-pox in your system it cannot be cured by poulticing the eruptions! Neither can the capitalist reformers cure the disease in our national system by regulating the trusts, guaranteeing bank deposits, tinkering with the tariff and preaching against the liquor traffic.

Like quite all rich men who die, Mr. Rogers left his property "in trust." In other words, the heirs can use only the income. The income, which must be contributed by the people, is all that Mr. Rogers used, and yet he was able to lay aside a dozen Scott counties as "working capital." The interest is all the heirs will use and, in spite of themselves and their extravagant and riotous living, each will be forced to lay aside a bunch of Scott counties. They cannot spend their incomes and must continually seek new investments.

What will they do when they have drained the country and there is nothing more to gobble up?

Take, for instance, the Goulds. Every child of Jay Gould is richer today than he was. And all have tried to squander their incomes! The boys squander large blocks of it on fast women and divorce courts. Helen is trying to give here away and establish a reputation as a philanthropist. If there was any way to rid ourselves of these barnacles, why are we still supporting Anna? She has never benefitted the people of this country one penny or given anything in return for the millions upon millions we have sent to her in France.

As a girl she bought herself a "title"—countess—by marry a bankrupt French (no) count. She lived with him and squandered the millions she system extracted from the people of this country until she tired of him. Then she got a divorce and bought herself another bankrupt count for us to support. And they live in extravagance—and the men and women who work on or patronize the Gould railroads foot the bills.

Last fall I heard Cowherd and other spell-binders say that it was only "three generations from shirt-tails to shirt-tails." This is supposed to be their answer to Socialism—that in every three generations the under dog will get on top and the top dog under.

Suppose this contention be true, who cares to live under such a dog-eat-dog system? Is there any comfort in it for you to know that before you and your children are poor and must work hard and suffer, your great-grand-children will be rich? It is on a par with the consolation we get from the churches—that we should be contented and we will be rewarded in the hereafter for the injustices we suffer here, and that our oppressors will be forever damned! Good Christians may find consolation in

such nonsense, but I can't.

But it is not true that it is only three generations from shirt-tails to shirt-tails, except, possibly, among the middle or small capitalist class. We have the third generation of the Goulds, Rockefeller and so on, and there is no indication of the wolf at the door. The families that can fasten themselves upon the nation as they are now fastening themselves upon us, can never be dislodged except by revolution—a fundamental change in the system. In spite of themselves they will grow richer and richer until they own it all—for they can not squander the "working capital" and are as secure as the hereditary monarchs and nobility of Europe. Their "working capital" consists of the legal right to take, or tax, and cannot be destroyed so long as the doctrine of "vested rights" holds.

What are you going to do about it? Will you keep on voting to continue these conditions, as demanded by both old parties, or will you vote to put that "working capital" into the hands of all the people, as demanded by the Socialist party?

It's up to you!

UNCLE ELI GOES TO TOWN.

A queer old world is this, and some very queer people in it. One day last week while I was in St. Louis I had occasion to visit one of the big drug stores of the town. Standing at the cigar counter waiting for some change, I noticed an individual enter the front door, walk briskly down past the long counter of many brands of whiskey kept on sale, until his eye rested on the particular brand he was looking for. He said never a word, reached over and took hold of a pint flask and shoved it into his pocket—just like he had done the same thing a thousand times before. The salesmen seemed to understand too, for he likewise said never a word. Just wrote out a check, handed it to the purchaser, who stepped to the cashier's desk, paid his bill and went on his way. Now you say, "Nothing singular about that!" Ordinarily, no. But who do you suppose the purchaser was? Well, I'll tell you. He was a man who, something over twenty years ago, "evangelized" all through Southeast Missouri. He fairly tore up the ground, all the way from the Mississippi to the foot-hills of the Ozarks. He held a meeting right here in Ironton for a month or more, and most bitter and pronounced was his denunciation of the demon, Drink. True, that was over twenty years ago. But, for all that, I say it is a queer world, and some queer people in it.—Ironton Register.

"This said that such is the case, but it is only in keeping with the hypocritical lives we lead." The minister who is honest and tries to do good is apt to be found in some rural circuit, while the college-bred "divine" who "plays the game" gets a tent and a singer and starts out "evangelizing," or gets higher up. I could mention at least two who "evangelized" and "fairly tore up the ground" in Southeast Missouri who were afterwards locked up by city police for being drunk on the streets. And another took a job as editor of a liquor organ in St. Louis county.

I was also in St. Louis recently, Uncle Eli, and, like yourself, I see things. In the evening the Salvation Army showed up. They knelt on the stone-paved street and prayed long and loud. Then began the singing accompanied by hideous discords from drum, tamborine and bones.

In a little while the sidewalk was jammed—and the "sisters" went through the crowd and through the saloons taking up the usual collection. All about were the police. It was in the neighborhood of Seventh and Walnut—considered tough. And I wondered!

Wondered why the police would allow this motley outfit, with its ear-ringing discords, while an orderly gathering of Socialists, with only one man talking, would have been clubbed out of existence and the speaker probably locked up.

Thus I wondered. Then came a thought. I recalled that these people had begun operations by kneeling in prayer.

That's were the Socialists fall down—hard!

They don't open with prayer. And the ruling class won't stand for any "indecency" like that. In the halls of legislation they have high-salaried chaplains to open their dirty work with prayer. In the army and in the navy are also chaplains. And as the opposing armies march up to face each other, the chaplain of each prays that his brothers of the opposing army may be slaughtered. And they call this Christianity!

WHY IS IT SO?

Is it not a little strange that the only answer capitalism has is that Socialism will bring about the very conditions that now exist? One of their favorite charges is that the Socialists want to divide up. Ask the tenant farmer if he does not divide up his crop with his landlord? Ask the man who is in debt if he does not have to divide up his income with the one who "accommodated" him? Ask the man who pays \$50 for a \$25 wagon if he is not dividing up with somebody?

Others of their scare-crows are that Socialism is against religion; that it will break up the home; destroy the family and inaugurate free love. Roosevelt recently unloaded himself of a choice assortment of this sort of gush. Let us see what capitalism is doing for the home, religion and morality. I will submit only capitalist authority. Read again what C. G. Roe, assistant state's attorney of Cook county (Chicago) says about conditions in the town where both of the old parties maintain national headquarters during campaigns:

"In Chicago alone there are more than 25,000 women leading a life of shame, and statistics show that the average life of a fallen woman is five years. Five thousand persons must, therefore, be recruited every year in CHICAGO ALONE!"

"The methods employed to entice young women are quite similar, but as to the particulars each case varies to some extent. After the girls are once within the resort, the stories are about the same. The street clothes are seized and parlor dresses varying in length are put upon them. They are threatened, never allowed to write letters, never permitted the use of the telephone, never trusted outside the house without the escort of a procurer, until two or three months have elapsed, when they are considered hardened to the life and too ashamed to face parents and friends again.

Girls are told of or perhaps have witnessed others who have tried to escape, have seen their failure and punishment, and are thereby cowed into submission. They are always held upon the pretense of being indebted to the house and this indebtedness has long been the backbone of the white slave system. From the time the girl is first sold into the house she is constantly in debt. First, for the money the owner gave to the procurer for her, next for her parlor clothes, then for the money her procurer borrows from the owner on her as his property, goods and chattels. The bonds of slavery are thus fastened upon these poor mortals by a system of vice that the people of this great country little realized existed until lately."

Mr. Roe gives in detail the methods employed by which several girls, whose procurers have been prosecuted, were captured. Love and ambition are the baits most often used, he says.

That's capitalism boiled down! Twenty-five thousand fallen women (a number greater than the entire population of Scott county) in one city! And what is true of Chicago is true of every large city. The average "earnings" of these women is \$2,000 per year, yet all they get out of it is a miserable existence. And WE send missionaries among the heathen to teach them OUR civilization! OUR code of morality! OUR religion!

Some time before his retirement President Roosevelt appointed a commission to investigate the condition in American homes to find out what was wrong. The evident purpose of the investigation was to discover the cause of the widespread unrest among the masses. Any Socialist could have furnished this information without charge. But Teddy wanted it officially and his commission worked faithfully and recently made its report.

And By giner! The report was suppressed. That isn't the way they tell it in Washington. But if you write for a copy of this report you will be told that it is "out of print!" It was such an indictment of capitalism that it resembled a Socialist pamphlet more than a government report. Here is a paragraph taken from it:

"The gross revenues from prostitution in Chicago in 1896 is estimated at TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS and probably more. There are at least 10,000 professional prostitutes. Annual average receipts of \$2,000 each are brought in by these women. They do not THEMSELVES, however, have the benefit of this revenue. Much of it is never received by them. THEY ARE, IN FACT, EXPLOITED BY LARGE BUSINESS INTERESTS."

No wonder Roosevelt lit out for Africa. Among other things, his

commission told him that the tap-root of prostitution is Big Business! The report goes on and tells of 2,000 fallen women investigated in New York City. Of these 750 are between the ages of 15 and 20; 1,154 between the ages of 20 and 39, and 96 are over 40. The report says:

"Of the 2,000 cases examined with reference to previous occupations, 933 belonged to the servant class, 499 lived with parents or friends, 285 were dressmakers, tailresses and seamstresses, and the remainder were engaged in miscellaneous occupations. 534 claimed to have earned only \$1 per week; 336, \$2; 230, \$3; 127, \$4; 68, \$5."

Hence, according to this capitalist report, the recruits come from among the working girls who are unable to live on from \$1 to \$5 per week.

FIFTY CENTS A DAY.

Biloxi, Miss., May 31.—Mississippi has a wonderful law, allowing municipalities to order men to work the streets six days, or in lieu thereof to pay \$3. This law the city council of Biloxi is now trying to enforce, and the common people are enraged and many are refusing to work. In fact, only a half dozen colored men have yet consented to work.

A hundred or two of the well to do have paid the tax, but there are hundreds of men and their families who are now out of work and suffering for want of food. Under this law, which forces a poor man, who has not the \$3, to work for 50 cents per day, there is no provision for feeding, and each man must feed himself.

One of the provisions of the law is that in the event of refusal to pay or work out the tax the man who refuses must go to jail and stay there until all the fines, court costs etc., are paid.

BARBECUE AT MORLEY.

At last the committee in charge of the picnic at Morley, Saturday, July 3, given by the Socialists of Scott county, has the speaker of the day secured. It is impossible to get Mr. Debs, so the next best speaker obtainable was secured—Senator Winfield Gaylord, of Wisconsin.

Here is a chance to see and hear a real, living, Socialist State Senator, elected by Wisconsin Socialists a second time.

The Hunter grove has been secured and, in addition to a barbecue dinner, there will be refreshments and all the usual amusements of a first-class barbecue. A good dance floor and brass and string music will be on hand.

The charge for dinner will be 25 cents. There will be no objection to those wishing to do so bringing basket dinners. All other events will suspend during the speaking so that all can hear.

A tremendous crowd is expected. Get ready. Be with the crowd.

BUSINESS LOCALS.

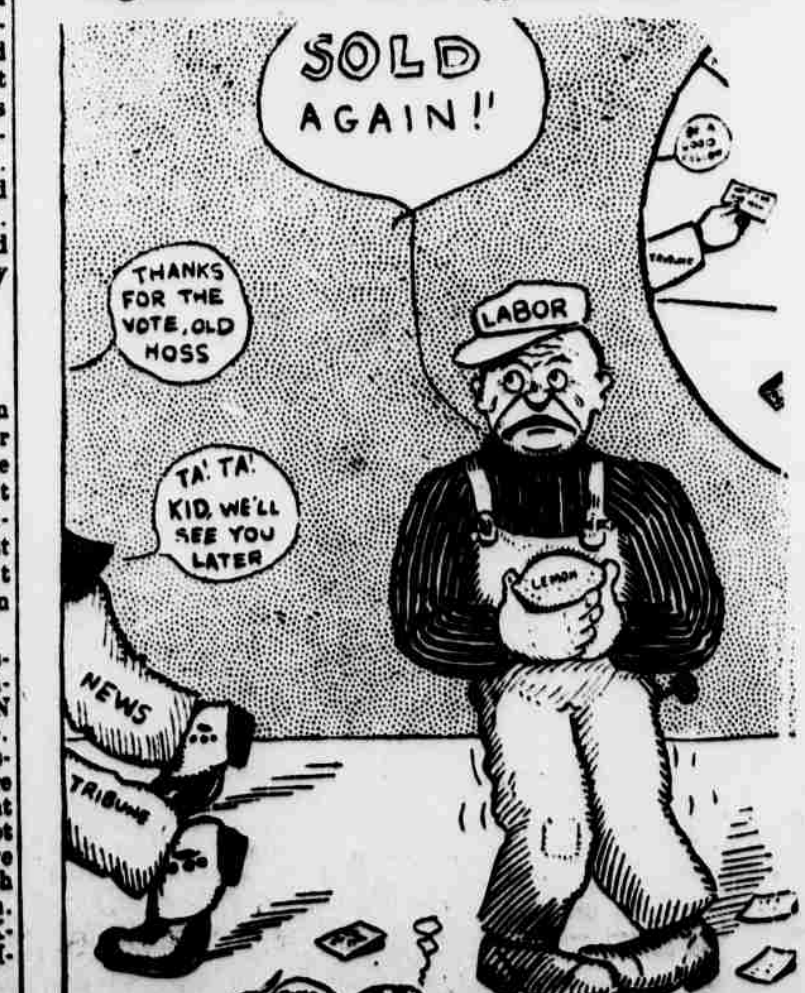
Farm for sale.—360 acres—240 acres in cultivation. As good land as can be found in Scott county. The part in cultivation never overflows. Will sell all or in such parts as suit the buyer. Price \$35 and \$40 per acre, if taken soon. Terms reasonable.

J. H. Branham, Vanduser Mo. For Sale.—Improved and unimproved farms near Oran, Chaffee, New Hamburg, Benton, Blodgett and Diehlstadt at prices ranging from \$25 to \$45 per acre. Also, business and residence property in Oran, Vanduser, Commerce and Diehlstadt. D. H. Harper, Oran. If you have farm or town property for sale, place it with me.

D. H. Harper, Oran, Mo.



Organized Labor--As it Appeared Last Fall.



Organized Labor--As it Appears Now.

WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

What is Socialism? That is the problem that quite all the thinking people are studying today. The capitalists, who are profiting by the present order, try to brush the question aside through ridicule and misrepresentation, yet the masses insist on asking the question, what is Socialism?

The answer is simple, and a little study will reveal the soundness and justness of it. Socialism means the wiping out of classes—the elimination of the class struggle that has existed since the institution of private property in the things necessary to life.

What is the class struggle? It is the contest between the owners of the means of production and distribution (land, mines, factories and railroads) and those who must use these means of production and distribution in order to get a chance to earn a living.

One class owns the things that others must use in earning a living and is in a position to dictate the terms on which the propertyless may use these things. The owning class makes the laws, or rules of the game, and has the courts, officers and the army to enforce these rules or laws. Without an army behind it, there can be no ruling class, and just in proportion as the masses show signs of discontent does the army increase.

But the owning class will tell you that this is a free country and that "the flag" protects us all alike. And because their newspapers and educators have been pumping this into you from childhood, you believe it. Let's see about it.

Industrially, no man is free who must depend on another man for a chance to earn a living—and may be denied that chance. No man is free so long as another man owns his job. What is a workingman to do when he is out of work, his family is hungry, and no one will employ him? Millions of jobless men in the United States today are anxiously awaiting an answer.

Politically, we are governed by courts. Even the Democrats are now reluctantly admitting this. Instead of having one despot, as in Russia or Mexico, we have them by the hundred scattered all over the nation. And, only last fall, both old parties declared for the supremacy of the courts—the "bulwark of our liberties."

But, for this illustration, I am not going to the higher courts, where a poor devil has no more show than a snowball in hades, but will look nearer home.

In my thirty odd years of residence in Scott county I have known of those of the ruling class committing some very grave offenses—including several cases of murder. But not one can I recall that was punished. They were able to employ the best lawyers and had the "pull." In some of the most flagrant cases the matter never got beyond the grand jury. Can you, who have watched affairs in Scott county, point out an exception to this rule? I think not.

There are times, however, when the rich are punished. Bigelow, the millionaire banker, of Wisconsin, was sent to the penitentiary. HE ROBBED OTHER MILLIONAIRES! That is against the rules of the game.

Again, if two men of the ruling class should get into a quarrel and one kill the other, there is usually something doing. Both have influential friends and plenty of cash to hire lawyers—and others. The newspapers would take sides and the people would divide; and while the murderer would, in all probability, go free in the end, yet his pocket-book would suffer much more severely than if he had killed a poor devil.

It is about the same whether the proceedings be civil or criminal. The working class has few rights, if any, that the idle ruling class is not willing to grant. And it is these conditions that Socialism will change by eliminating the existence of classes. No useful work, no product. That is Socialism.

And the only way this can be accomplished is by making it impossible for a part of the people to live off the labor of others. Stop this and class distinctions and class government will disappear. Cut out the "divide up" with the idle class—no rent, no interest, no profit. Then the opportunity of all will be industrially and politically equal. That is Socialism.

MEANING VERY CLEAR.

Willie—When a young lady refers to a "bad courtship," what does she mean?
Bob—She means that the fellow got away.

CRIMES AND CRIMINALS.

From an address by Attorney Darrow to the prisoners in Chicago Jail.

Most all the crimes for which we are punished are property crimes. There are a few personal crimes, like murder, but most murders can be traced to troubles arising over property differences. The crimes committed are mostly those against property. If this punishment is right, the criminals must have a lot of property. How much money is there in this crowd? And yet you are all here for crimes against property. The people up and down the lake shore have not committed crime, still they know so much property they don't know what to do with it. It is perfectly plain why these people have not committed crimes against property: they make the laws and therefore do not need to break them. And in order for you to get some property you are obliged to break the rules of the game.

I don't know but what some of you may have had a very nice chance to get rich by carrying the hod for one dollar a day, twelve hours. Instead of taking that nice, easy profession, you are a burglar. If you had been given a chance to be a banker you would rather follow that.

Some of you may have had a chance to work as a switchman on a railroad where you know, according to statistics, that you can not live and keep all your limbs more than seven years, and you can get \$50 and \$75 a month for taking your lives in your hands and, instead of taking that lucrative position you chose to be a sneak-thief or something like that. Some of you made that sort of choice. I don't know which I would take if I was reduced to this choice. I have a better choice.

I will guarantee to take from this jail, or any jail in the world, five hundred men who have been the worst criminals and law-breakers who ever got into jail, and I will go down to our lowest streets and take five hundred of the most abandoned prostitutes, and go out somewhere where there is plenty of land, and will give them a chance to make a living, and they will be as good people as the average in the community.

There is a remedy for the sort of conditions we find here. The world never finds it out, or when it does find it out it does not enforce it. You may pass a law punishing every person with death for burglary and it will make no difference. Men will commit it just the same. In England there was a time when one hundred offenses were punishable with death, and it made no difference. The English people strangely found out that so fast as they repealed the severe penalties, and so fast as they did away with punishing men by death, crime decreased instead of increased; that the smaller the penalty the fewer the crimes.

Hanging men does not prevent murder. It makes murderers. And this has been the history of the world. It is easy to see how to do away with what we call crime (it is not so easy to do it. I will tell you how to do it. It can be done by giving the people a chance to live—by destroying special privileges. So long as the big criminals can get the coal fields; so long as the big criminals have control of the city council and get the public streets for street cars and gas rights, this is bound to send thousands of people to jail. So long as men are allowed to monopolize the earth, and compel others to live on such terms as these men see fit to make, then you are bound to get into jail.

The only way in the world to abolish crime and criminals is to abolish the big ones and the little ones together. Make fair conditions of life. Give men a chance to live. Abolish the right of the private ownership of land, abolish monopoly, make the world partners in production, partners in the good things of life.

Nobody would steal if he could get something of his own some easier way. Nobody will commit burglary if he has a house full. No girl will go out on the streets when she has a comfortable home. The man who owns a sweat-shop or a department store may not be to blame himself for the condition of his girls, but when he pays them five dollars, three dollars and two dollars a week, I wonder where he thinks they will get the rest of their money to live!

The only way to cure these conditions is by equality. There should be no jails. They do not accomplish what they pretend to accomplish. If you would wipe them out there would be no more criminals than now. They terrorize nobody. They are a blot upon our civilization, and a jail is evidence of lack of charity of the people on the outside who make the jails and fill them with the victims of their greed.

A GOOD REASON.
Fred—Why do some people never marry?
J. M.—Because they do not believe in divorces.